



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of Texas

400 W. Illinois, Suite 1200
Midland, Texas 79701
Phone (432) 686-4110

**JOHNNY SUTTON
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 18, 2008

KANSAS SEX OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY TO FAILING TO REGISTER

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 33 year old Melvin Randall Simmons pleaded guilty today in federal court in Midland to federal charges of traveling in interstate commerce and failing to register as a sex offender, a violation of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison when he is sentenced this summer.

In his plea before United States Magistrate L. Stuart Platt, Simmons admitted that in 1995, he was convicted in Jackson County, Kansas, of Aggravated Indecency with a Child and Sexual Battery. In the summer of 2007 he came to Odessa and was living in a motel, but failed to update his registration as a sex offender in Odessa in compliance with state and federal law. Thereafter, he traveled to Etowah County, Alabama, where he was arrested by U.S. Marshals in September. Subsequent investigation revealed that he failed to register as a sex offender in Alabama as well.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Marshal's Service. Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Parras is prosecuting Simmons on behalf of the Government.